

We claim:

- 1. A pile comprising a hollow uniformly tapered steel body, said tapered body having a cross-section, taken perpendicular to a longitudinal axis, which is a convex polygon having 8 to 24 sides, said sides being substantially equal in length, said body being at least about 3 meters long, having a lower diameter which is about 200 mm to 400 mm and a larger upper diameter and being of steel about 5 to 13 mm thick formed from sheet steel folded into the tapered shape of said convex polygon and having its longitudinally extending free edges welded together, said body having at its bottom a closure constructed and arranged to substantially prevent ingress of the soil into said body during the driving of the pile.**
- 2. A pile as in claim 1, said polygon being a substantially regular polygon.**
- 3. A pile as in claim 2, the very top of said body being formed to a circular cross-section such that said top can engage with, match and be butt-welded to the end of a straight pipe of corresponding circular cross-section.**
- 4. A driven pile in place in the ground, said pile having at its lower end the body of claim 1 filled with concrete.**
- 5. Process which comprises driving the body of claim 1 into the ground by blows transmitted to the very top of said body and filling said body with concrete**
- 6. A pile as in claim 1 in place in the ground, said pile having been driven only until said tapered body is largely embedded in, and supported by, cohesive soil.**
- 7. A pile as in claim 6 in which said cohesive soil is over-consolidated clay.**
- 8. A structure supported by piles, said supporting piles comprising a pile as set forth in claim 6.**

9. A structure as in claim 8 in which said cohesive soil is over-consolidated clay.

10. Process which comprises driving a pile as set forth in claim 1 into the ground until said tapered body is largely embedded in cohesive soil, stopping said driving, and then building a structure supported by said pile while said tapered body is so embedded